

front wall pivot. In the first place these parts are, as stated in the specification, long known and used by Applicant, in prior art devices. The conventional container top lock described by Applicant here as common in the art, is shown, for example, in Examiner's reference 4,534,492 at Fig. 13.

In order to comply with the spirit of Examiner's requirement, Applicant has eliminated reference, in the claims (as in original claim 1) to the container top rod lock and the base front wall pivot. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims, as well as the supporting specification and drawings are in compliance with the rules. With these amendments of the claims, the substance of Applicant's drawings is submitted to the appropriate, and approval is requested.

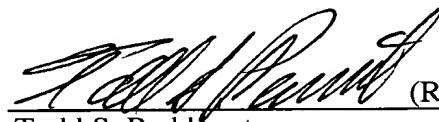
On the merits, the Examiner has urged that claims 1-4, are indefinite and/or as failing to define Applicant's invention. By the submitted amendments, it is believed that the Examiner's concerns have been addressed, and that claims 1-4 are proper and concisely define the working relationship between the top frame 16 rigidly secured to base 18, the container bottom 17 and the front wall 30. As thus defined, it is submitted that Schwarzli '492 is neither anticipatory or suggestive of Applicant's claimed structure. Schwarzli lock element 42 does not in any way positively prevent vertical separation between the vending machine base and container bottom elements. He does not address or correct the problem faced in the prior art vending machine as described by Applicant. Applicant has cured a problem well known in the art but not before solved, and as such, the claimed cure is not redundant.

Inadvertent or intentional vertical separation between the container bottom and the base are here positively prevented, and, as claimed, the Schwarzli patent provides no structure anticipatory to or suggestive of the claimed invention.

It is submitted that Applicant's claims, as amended, are proper as to form and substance and allowance thereof is in order, and is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. A bulk vending machine having a base, said base having peripheral walls and a top frame secured therewith for enclosing a coin box on a plurality of sides and for supporting a merchandise container having four peripheral side walls secured to a bottom floor, a coin box in said base, a lid covering said merchandise container, said base having a vertical front wall providing coin box access when said container floor and said base top frame are vertically separated, and a lock engagable when said container is resting snugly on top of the base frame positively connecting said container floor to said base and preventing unauthorized upward lifting separation of said container floor relative to said vertical wall.

2. The structure according to claim 1, wherein said lock is mounted on said base front wall and said base front wall is secured against vertical movement relative to said base by said top frame when in vending condition.

3. The structure according to claim 2, wherein said base front wall is constrained against vertical movement when in vending condition by extending beneath and interlocking with the top frame member rigid with said base.

4. In combination, a vending machine base compartment for containing a coin box, a merchandise supply bin resting on the top of said base compartment a locking structure for securing the front of the supply bin to the front of the base compartment to lockably prevent unauthorized vertical separation of the front edges of said base and supply bin, including a lockable projection secured to and extending

from said supply bin downwardly into said base compartment, a moveable locking element secured to said base for cooperation with said lockable projection when said supply bin and base are fully assembled together.

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